

**2013 APPROVED
WORK PLAN AND MEETING SCHEDULE
for the
MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

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Rep. Nathan "Nate" Cote

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Rep. Dennis J. Roch
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Rep. Jeff Steinborn
Sen. Lisa A. Torracco

Work Plan

The Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee was first created by statute for the 2009 interim session. The committee was permanently reauthorized by statute during the 2010 regular session. The committee was given various statutory duties, including making an annual report and recommending any necessary legislation to the next session of the legislature and requesting necessary action to Congress, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and the United States Department of Defense. The committee is required to conduct meetings in several geographically dispersed areas of the state and to conduct hearings relating to military issues and veterans' issues. The committee will coordinate, as needed, with other committees regarding presentations of subject matter of common concern.

During the 2013 interim, the Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee proposes to explore and discuss the following topics, as time permits:

1. education opportunities and programs offered by state educational institutions and public community colleges, including expanding veterans resource centers to locations throughout the state and touring the New Mexico Military Institute;
2. health care delivery systems for military personnel and veterans, including partnerships between the Veterans' Services Department, Department of Health and United States Bureau of Indian Affairs;

3. issues related to access to care, including the transportation of veterans who reside in rural areas to medical and behavioral health care facilities;

4. support and treatment options for veterans and military personnel with posttraumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury, including alternative treatment options, community programs and state and federal partnerships;

5. family support issues and concerns and the programs available to veterans and military personnel and their families from the state and local communities;

6. the prevention of homelessness and support for homeless veterans in areas throughout the state;

7. jobs and business opportunities for veterans, including the implementation and impact of the veterans' preference, the veteran employment tax credit and incubator programs;

8. an update on the base realignment and closure process;

9. a tour of and an update on Holloman Air Force Base;

10. strategic planning by the Veterans' Services Department, including planning for long-term care for aging veterans in the state, cemetery space and the economic impact of veterans on the state; and

11. a review of the Veterans' Services Department Act and discussion of possible changes needed to provide the department with the authority necessary to help ensure that the state can meet veterans' needs.

**Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee
2013 Approved Meeting Schedule**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
June 6	Santa Fe, State Capitol
July 1	Roswell, New Mexico Military Institute
August 7*	Albuquerque
September 3	Santa Fe, Santa Fe Armory
October 9	Alamogordo, Holloman Air Force Base
November 15	Santa Fe, State Capitol

*Joint meeting with the Mortgage Finance Authority Act Oversight Committee.